

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:BH

APPROVED BY:NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

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P 272158Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

NAVEUR PRIORITY

MIDEASTFOR BAHRAIN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 185030

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FO RPT STATE 185030 ACTION MANAMA 27 JULY QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 185030

EXDIS

E.O. ,1652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, BA

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: MANAMA 904

1. WE AGREE THAT PRIME MINISTER'S PLANNED LENGTHY ABSENCE FROM BAHRAIN THIS SUMMER AS WELL AS OUR OWN NEED TO DEVELOP A RANGE OF POTENTIALLY ADEQUATE RESPONSES ARE LIKELY TO DELAY SETTLEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE FUTURE. IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, USG WISHES TO RETAIN MIDDLE EAST FORCE AT BAHRAIN PROVIDED FINANCIAL COST REMAINS MANAGEABLE AND SECURITY  
SECRET

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ASSISTANCE CAN BE KEPT CONSISTENT WITH OUR LOWER GULF ARMS POLICY. WE ARE OF COURSE INTERESTED IN ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY DEVELOP REGARDING IDEAS OF GOB LEADERSHIP ON NATURE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE THEY HAVE IN MIND.

2. WE HAVE BEGUN CONSIDERING WITHIN USG WHAT WE MIGHT BE WILLING TO PAY FOR MIDDLE EAST FORCE'S EXTENDED LIFE AT BAHRAIN AND THE DURATION OF THE EXTENSION WE DESIRE. AS FIRST INTERIM STEP, WE WISH YOU TO REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER EXTENSION OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE STAY BEYOND JUNE 30, 1977, TO ENABLE US TO PROCEED MORE RATIONALLY WITH NECESSARY DELIBERATIONS WITHIN USG AND SUBSEQUENTLY ON RESPONSE AND

DISCUSSION WITH GOB. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH A REQUEST MAY COMPEL HIM TO CONFER MORE WIDELY WITHIN GOB AND AS A RESULT WE MIGHT GET BETTER FEEL FOR CABINET OPINION AND PERHAPS MORE PRECISE IDEAS OF WHAT GOB WILL SEEK IN NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- GOB PROPOSAL FOR EXTENDING MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN EX-CHANGE FOR SOME FORM OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS BEING CONSIDERED AT SENIOR LEVELS OF THE USG;

-- OUR CURRENT CONSIDERATION OF YOUR PROPOSAL COMBINED WITH YOUR OWN PLANS FOR TRAVEL ABROAD POSE A PRACTICAL PROBLEM IN SCHEDULING NEAR-TERM BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS;

-- OUR NAVY IS NOW IMPELLED TO MAKE DECISIONS BASED UPON THE JUNE 30, 1977 WITHDRAWAL DATE. FOR EXAMPLE, PERSONNEL ARE BEING ASSIGNED WITHOUT THEIR FAMILIES SINCE THERE IS LESS THAN A YEAR LEFT TO THE FORCE'S PRESENCE HERE. ALSO, NAVY NEEDS TO TAKE SIGNIFICANT BUDGETARY PLANNING ACTIONS TO INSURE ADEQUATE FUTURE FUNDING FOR MIDDLE EAST FORCE;

-- NAVY'S PREPARATIONS FOR MIDDLE EAST FORCE WITHDRAWAL OUGHT TO BE HALTED IN ORDER NOT TO PREEMPT DECISIONS OUR GOVERNMENTS MAY REACH IN RESPONSE TO YOUR NEW PROPOSAL.  
SECRET

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-- THEREFORE, I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BOTH TO CONVEY MY GOVERNMENT'S SERIOUS INTEREST IN YOUR PROPOSAL AND TO ASK THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCE BE EXTENDED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT, UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR BEYOND PRESENT DATE SET FOR WITHDRAWAL IN ORDER TO HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO CONSIDER YOUR PROPOSAL.

-- WE WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE US YOUR RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO RELIEVE PRESSURES ON THE US NAVY TO COMPLETE STEPS ALREADY IN PROGRESS FOR CARRYING OUT MIDDLE EAST FORCE'S SCHEDULED WITHDRAWAL FROM BAHRAIN. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

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